

KUSUMOTO 211.1 DIV-KFM
PCT9918A-US

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicants : AKIO ITO and EIJI TOKUHARA
Serial No. : TO BE ASSIGNED
Filed : HEREWITH
For : SHEET METAL REPAIR METHOD, SHEET METAL
REPAIR TOOL, AND SHEET-LIKE MEMBER
FIXING DEVICE

October 25, 2001

Hon. Commissioner of Patents
& Trademarks
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Prior to examination, please amend the above-identified
patent application as follows:

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following heading
and paragraph:

CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of
Application Serial No. 09/600,841, filed July 24, 2000, now
pending.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and amend claims 13-21 to read as follows:

13. In a sheet-like member fixing device comprising a rod like male thread and a female thread, the improvement wherein the male lead thread has a hook on its one end portion and is screwed into the female thread, wherein the female thread is tightened after passing the male thread through a hole of a sheet-like member, and wherein the sheet-like member is supported by sandwiching it between the hook and the female thread.

14. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the male thread is passed through the hole from its hook's side.

15. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 14, wherein the hook is substantially square to the male thread.

16. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15, wherein the male thread is fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the hook while the hook is

brought in close contact with the surface of the sheet-like member.

17. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15, wherein the hook points to one direction.

18. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15, wherein the edge of the hook fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the male thread is beveled.

19. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein a handle is provided to the other end of the male thread.

20. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 19, wherein the handle is shaped like a ring.

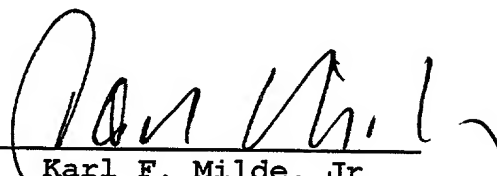
21. The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 13, wherein the female thread can be screwed down by hand.

R E M A R K S

This preliminary amendment is being made to place the claims in proper form under U.S. Patent Practice. No new matter has been introduced.

Respectfully submitted,

By


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VERSION TO SHOW MARKINGS OF CHANGES MADE

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

On page 1, after the title, insert the following heading and paragraph:

-- CROSS REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application is a divisional application of Application Serial No. 09/600,841, filed July 24, 2000, now pending. --

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 and amend claims 13-21 to read as follows:

13. (Once Amended) [A] In a sheet-like member fixing device comprising a rod like male thread and a female thread, [characterized in that] the improvement wherein the male lead thread has a hook on its one end portion and is screwed into the female thread, [that] wherein the female thread is tightened after passing the male thread through a hole of a sheet-like member, and [that] wherein the sheet-like member is supported by sandwiching it between the hook and the female thread.

14. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 13, [characterized in that] wherein the male thread is passed through the hole from its hook's side.

15. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 14, [characterized in that] wherein the hook is substantially square to the male thread.

16. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15, [characterized in that] wherein the male thread is fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the hook while the hook is brought in close contact with the surface of the sheet-like member.

17. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 15 [or 16, characterized in that] , wherein the hook points to one direction.

18. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 15 to 17, characterized in that] claim 15, wherein the edge of the hook fixed in the direction substantially perpendicular to the male thread is beveled.

19. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 13 to 18, characterized in that] claim 13, wherein a handle is provided to the other end of the male thread.

20. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to claim 19, [characterized in that] wherein the handle is shaped like a ring.

21. (Once Amended) The sheet-like member fixing device according to [any one of claims 13 to 20, characterized in that] claim 13, wherein the female thread can be screwed down by hand.